

Introduction

This Master Plan is the result of the Planning Board expending considerable effort gathering public input in order to prepare a plan which reflects our town's collective vision for the future of our community.

The overall guideline for the future development of our community expressed by the people through this Master Planning process is:

Encourage the modest growth necessary to maintain the viability of the Town as a living, social, working community while protecting and preserving the physical and social landscape. Modest growth will be concentrated around village centers preserving open spaces and natural resources. Local capital will support the largely tourist and service-oriented economy by encouraging home-based, 21st century technology-based business and cottage industries, such as agritourism, that utilize local resources and labor, and contribute to the community's working landscape, while blending with and utilizing the 19th century character and buildings of the Town to the extent possible.

Purpose of Master Plan

The process of developing an updated Master Plan is an opportunity to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of our community's needs and desires as they pertain to the anticipated growth of our town. The overall purpose of the Master Plan is to provide guidelines for the future growth and development of our community. It is a guide for future growth and a tool for public officials and private citizens in decision-making and in the administration of the Town's Regulations. It is a consensus-building planning process which attempts to identify the guidelines for growth of our town as preferred by the townspeople and not just a few individuals. The following Master Plan is based on reports supplied by Planning Board members, other officials and agencies, and on responses and comments developed by listening sessions and survey questionnaires. An attempt has been made to reflect the consensus viewpoints from these sources concerning the town's past, present and desired future. The goal of this master planning process is to proactively chart a course identifying the desired future of our community. Without this comprehensive planning process, in a relatively short time, Moultonborough could find it has lost many of the features, qualities and character our townspeople cherish.

Process to Update the Master Plan

A Community Survey was prepared and administered in the summer of 2013. Tabulation of the survey results was completed in the fall of 2013. Three Speak Out Listening Sessions were held in various parts of Town and a record was kept of all citizen input. A facilitated visioning workshop with the Planning Board and Master Plan Implementation Committee was held on January 29, 2014 with several records of the proceedings taken.

Under New Hampshire law (RSA 674:2, 3 & 4), the preparation and adoption of the Master Plan is under the purview of the Planning Board. For each chapter of the Master Plan update, the Planner and Planning Board prepared a draft based on results of the survey, demographic data, the results of the Speak Out sessions, and the results of the facilitated visioning workshop for the Board to review and critique. Following this review, public input was taken and recorded on xx

occasions. After all the revised draft chapters were completed, they were assembled into an integrated document for the Planning Board's review. The Planning Board conducted two public hearings on the draft Master Plan on ??? and adopted the updated plan at the end of the second public hearing. It is the intent of the Planning Board to update the Master Plan as it perceives conditions are changing which warrant a fresh look at how to address these challenges. As reflected in RSA 674:3, the Master Plan is recommended to be updated every five to ten years to remain current. Future boards have a point of departure for keeping it current in changing times and for dealing with new problems, needs and issues.

Accomplishments since the Adoption of the 2008 Master Plan

Before we look to the future and the development issues facing our community, it is beneficial to look back and take stock of the accomplishments the town has achieved since adoption of the 2008 Master Plan update. This is not intended to be an exhaustive listing of those accomplishments, but rather a summary of the highlights. Included are:

Adoption of revised zoning, subdivision, and Site Plan Review regulations;

More to be added here from MPIC review and matrix documents.

Priorities for Implementation

The Planning Board's efforts in developing this long range Master Plan have resulted in numerous recommendations on a variety of topics. In an effort to provide some guidance in the intermediate term, the Planning Board has identified the top priorities for implementation of the 2014 Master Plan:

A summary of all goals and recommendations is included in the Master Plan appendices.

Acknowledgments

The Planning Board wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the constructive assistance and input of the following, whose past and present contributions were invaluable in developing the Master Plan and the updates:

The Moultonborough Select board,

The Master Plan Implementation Committee

2013 Survey Questionnaire Respondents,

Town Officials,

Speak Out Moultonborough Participants, owners of meeting venues, and

All interested and involved citizens.

The Moultonborough Master Plan is based on the views of the town's citizens and local officials. Facilitated meetings and many workshops made up the master planning process for the Planning Board in the preparation of the Master Plan to prepare a document that reflects the goals and desires of the Town of Moultonborough and its citizens.

VISION SECTION

Land Use

Moultonborough will be a place where modest development in context with our Town's setting is concentrated around village centers so that undeveloped and agricultural areas will be preserved. Our identity is tied to our landscape: our lakes, mountains, rivers, wildlife, agricultural, and historic resources. Land use policies will encourage the modest growth necessary to maintain the viability of Moultonborough as a living, social, working community while simultaneously protecting and preserving the physical landscape and historic built environment which is so inextricably tied to the character of Moultonborough.

Economic Development

Businesses that support local resources and people will be promoted. Moultonborough will support and develop its service-based and agrarian economy. Home-based and cottage industries shall predominate the economic landscape in Moultonborough. Businesses on a scale larger than home-based will be concentrated in Village type nodes. Moultonborough shall strive to identify appropriate new Village nodes and to allow for the prudent expansion of the existing Village in a manner which preserves open space and in avoidance of costly public investments or additional services.

Natural Resources

Open space is one of Moultonborough's greatest assets. Our lake shorelines, steep mountain slopes, agricultural lands, forests, groundwater, watercourses, and wetlands will be preserved and protected. Their appreciation of and appropriate use by the public shall be promoted.

Historic Resources

Moultonborough is unique in that its history is to a large degree a living and tangible one. These resources shall be preserved, to the extent possible, and celebrated for the generations to come.

Community Facilities

Existing community facilities shall be used to their fullest potential. Moultonborough will strive to meet the health and safety needs of all its citizens, in particular its elderly and its children. Moultonborough will provide a quality education for its children through High School. The school will be supported by and will support the community.

Transportation/Communications

Moultonborough's network of roads will be maintained in an efficient and organized manner. The safety needs of drivers, cyclists, equestrians, and pedestrians will be met. Moultonborough will explore practical, affordable public transportation solutions and other alternatives to single-occupancy automobiles. The Town's communication and transportation infrastructure will be able to support the needs of its citizens and businesses. The Town will fully support improving broadband and high speed internet capabilities to a 21st century level so that state of the art business and citizen needs are met to the greatest extent possible.

Policy Considerations

Land Use

Consider identifying Village nodes and consider expanding the current Village to direct new development toward those zones in order to protect and preserve open space and to minimize strip type development along the busy NH Rte. 25 Highway corridor.

Evaluate the impact of a change in commercial zoning dimensional and use requirements along said corridor outside of the existing commercial nodes.

Insure that the physical character of land can support a proposed use without necessitating the excessive expenditure (for the construction of municipal water or sewer systems, for example) of public funds to support the development.

Economic Development

Support businesses, in accordance with allowable uses in the Zoning Ordinance, which use and protect local resources and people and which are in harmony with Moultonborough's natural, rural, and historic qualities.

Assist business owners through the zoning/permitting process to facilitate the ability of people to live and work in Moultonborough.

Consider appropriate Village nodes and consider expanding the current Village to accommodate economic growth.

Explore ways to support a service-based and agrarian economy.

Natural Resources

Protect the quality of all of our lakes' waters.

Identify and map areas of particular natural and aesthetic importance. Use various tools available from Conservation Zoning to Conservation Easements to protect these areas.

Update the Natural Resources Inventory.

Support the New Hampshire Current Use Program.

Protect the quality of groundwater, and protect groundwater from future commercial extraction.

Encourage the use of public spaces.

Historic Resources

Generate and periodically update a map and inventory of historical and archeological sites in Moultonborough.

Continue to protect and use our historic buildings.

Evaluate the desirability of designating additional scenic roads with the goal of saving historic stone walls and tree-lined lanes to the extent practical.

Continue to protect Town Records.

Keep Moultonborough's history alive through tours of historic sites, through the integration of local history into school curricula, and by supporting oral history projects, the Moultonborough Historical Society, and other historical/preservation groups.

Community Facilities

Encourage multiple uses of existing facilities: more community use of the school, Lions Club, for example.

Periodically assess the Town's emergency preparedness.

Address the multi-use of school facilities in light of declining school enrollment.

Support the Town website.

Other?